

# 2010-2011 UNIVERSITY SENATE REPORT

## COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

CHRIS KYSELKA AND VICTORIA K. TROTTA, CO-CHAIRS

MEMBERS: CHARLES COLBOURN, DAVID FORSYTH, PATRICIA FRIEDRICH, JUDY GRACE,  
NORA GUSTAVSSON, JOHN MITCHELL, TODD SANDRIN

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### SUMMARY

The tasks for the committee this year included: (1) nominate faculty and academic professionals for election or appointment to senate, university, and faculty-student committees and put forward additional members as vacancies occur (none were communicated this year) (2) create and distribute the Fall Preference Survey to nominate assembly officers and other candidates for the spring assembly ballot (3) conduct elections on all four campuses; and (4) distribute and review results from the University Committee Survey to nominate assembly members for the Provost's boards, councils and committees.

The Committee met in-person during the fall semester, but communicated via email or phone thereafter.

Three preference surveys issued throughout the year: (1) University Senate Preference Survey, to solicit nominations for Senate Standing Committees; (2) Academic Assembly Preference Survey, to solicit nominations for campus President-elect, Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, Governance Grievance, Academic Professional Grievance Committee and Committee on Academic Professional Status; and (3) University Committee Preference Survey, to solicit assembly member preferences for Committees, Boards, and Advisory Groups.

Committee co-chairs worked with committee members from each campus as well as campus presidents to identify candidates and coordinate election notices and ballots which were provided to the University Senate Secretary. Assistance with senate elections included University Senate Secretary Judy Grace, Linda Glover (Educational Outreach and Student Services), Jill Andrews and Carol Peplow (Provost's Office) and Charles Barbee, (University Senate office).

As of the date of this annual report, the election for the Tempe Academic Assembly has launched; the Polytechnic, West and Downtown Academic Assembly elections are in the process of launching. As soon as it is feasible, follow-up elections will need to be held for Academic Professional Grievance and president-elect at West Campus. The University Senate Secretary will coordinate the

Tellers Committee, in accordance with the revised Bylaws that pertain to this part of the election process.

The campus elections are managed using the same software that supports ASU student government elections. This software is secure and ballot confidentiality is maintained. The preference surveys are conducted using Survey Monkey. The University Senate maintains this low-cost subscription and should continue to do so.

## COMMITTEE ISSUES

- Only one campus was able to field a full slate of nominees. Several other ballots were uncontested. For example, one campus did not have a campus president-elect candidate but had full slates for faculty committees. Another campus had a contest for president-elect but uncontested faculty committees. Then another campus had a president-elect candidate run unopposed but had full faculty committee slates. The inability to field a contested election for these most important faculty governance opportunities needs to be addressed.
- This year, a co-chair was appointed as part of a transition to committee chair. The processes of the committee are not difficult, but they are detailed and the academic assembly is not served if a chair is unfamiliar with the tasks and the routines involved in conducting the work of the committee. Now that a complete cycle of tasks and routines is complete, the work of the committee this next year will flow smoothly.
- Administrative support for this committee improved this year due to the help of Charles Barbee in the Senate office. It could still be better with certain committee tasks such as in the area of communicating senate business to campus assemblies.
- The general preference survey that asks for assembly member preferences for committee and board appointment has gone out every year. The Committee makes recommendations to the Provost as vacancies on these committees are revealed. The survey was distributed this year even though some committee members in previous years felt it should go out every other year. As faculty and academic professional availability can change due to travel, sabbaticals, or other responsibilities -- appointments to committees and boards remain critical to faculty governance. The response rate this year will be evaluated and a decision made whether there is value in an annual survey.

The Committee on Committees would like to thank the following individuals, who each contributed in a significant way during the year: Charles Barbee, Darby Shaw, Linda Glover, Cameron Scholtz, Jill Andrews and Carol Peplow.

*May 4, 2011*